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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2256577 A

GB 2227922 A

GB 0603350 A

US 5490289 A

US 4620323 A

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(54) Abstract Title

Protective cape or bib with sealing collar

(57) Protective apparel 1, such as a bib or a haidressing cape, comprising a sheet made of rubber non-woven material with an integrally formed collar portion 5. The collar portion is resiliently biased to provide substantially sealing contact with the wearers neck. A fastener 7a,7b for fastening the sheet around the wearer is provided. A paper or tissue liner may be used to line the inside surface of the collar portion. The non-woven material may be anti-static to repel hair. The apparel may also be used as a baby's food bib (fig 3) with an elasticated collar portion (fig 3, 16) and a trough (fig 3, 17). Materials used may be eg. stamped, corrugated for aesthetic or branding purposes.

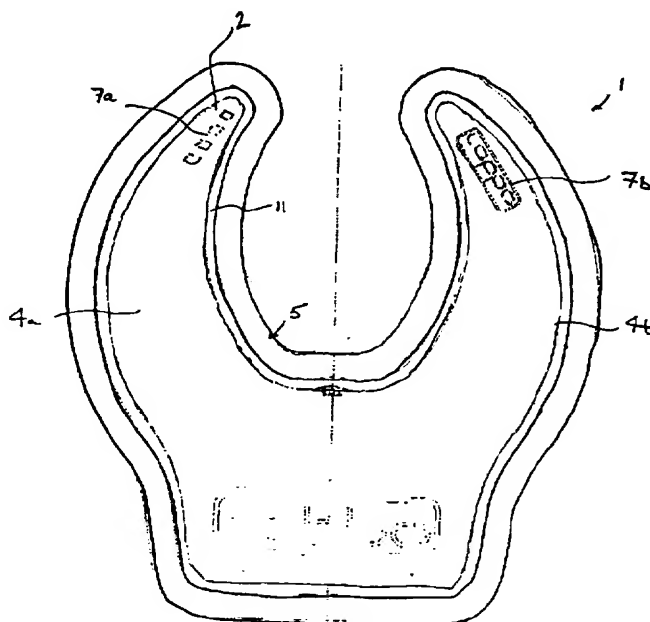


FIGURE 1

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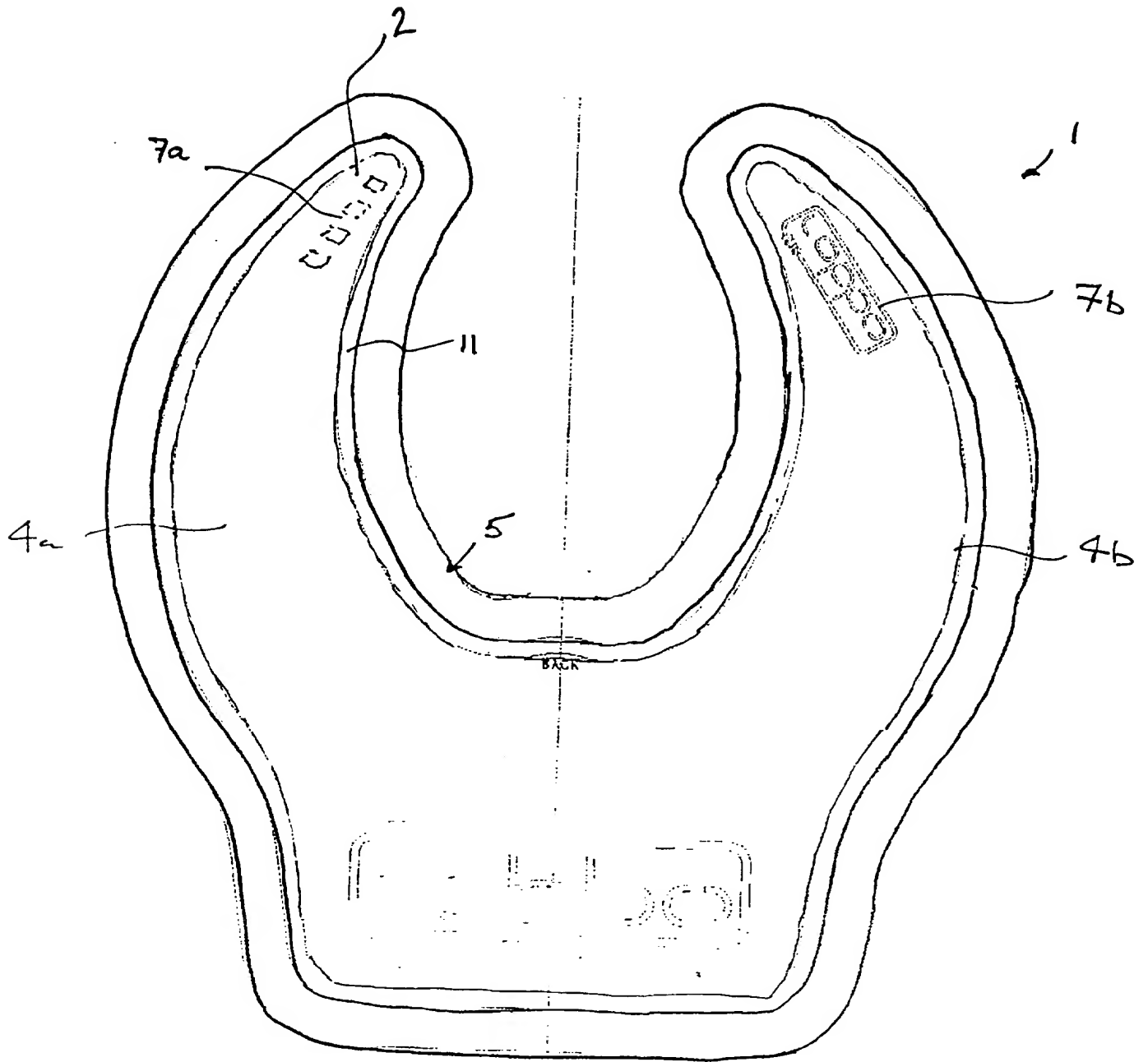


FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

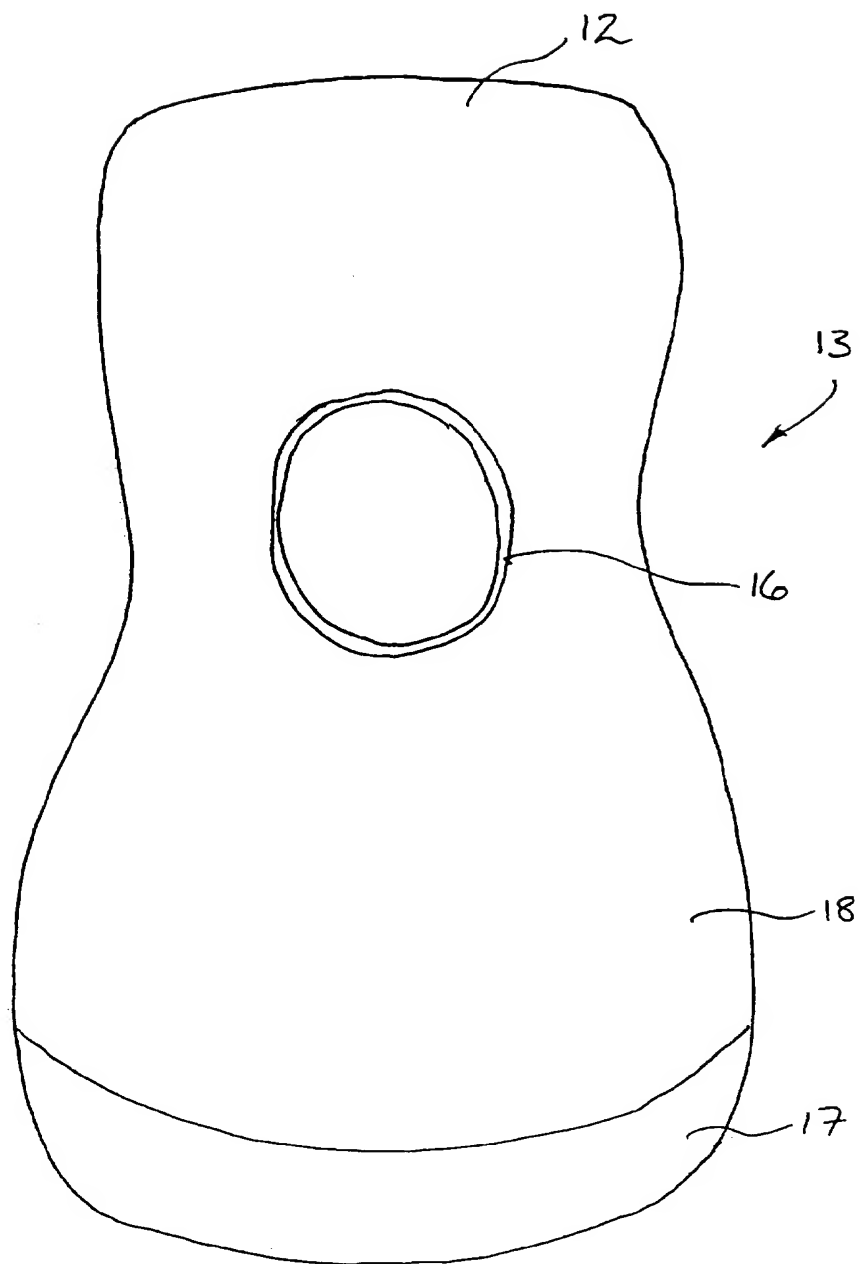


FIGURE 3

1 PROTECTIVE COLLAR OR BIB

2

3 This invention relates to protective apparel and more
4 specifically a collar or similar garment adapted to
5 provide a barrier to prevent the ingress or staining of
6 substances on or into a person's clothing.

7

8 One application of the invention relates to hairdressing
9 gowns or capes and collars associated with such, while
10 another application of the invention is found in food
11 bibs or the like. The invention however is not limited to
12 these applications.

13

14 Hairdressing capes are well known and come in different
15 forms. Typically they comprise of a plasticated or woven
16 sheet fabric of suitable length to be draped over a
17 hairdresser's client's shoulders and upper body. Such
18 capes are generally adequate in preventing falling hair
19 from landing upon and clinging to the client's clothing.

20

21 However, a problem arises in how the cape is supported
22 and fastened to a person's neck. In the past it has been
23 difficult to provide a suitable shaped gown that
24 universally fitted people of different neck circumference

1 and adapted to a variety of collar shapes and non-
2 collared clothing.

3

4 In the present invention it is recognised that the
5 practice of simply pushing the cape or gown into the neck
6 region and under the shirt or blouse collar of a client's
7 clothing is not adequate in preventing hair from gaining
8 access to the client's skin in that region. Similarly,
9 the use of cotton wool strips or tissues is impractical
10 and does little to improve the effectiveness of the
11 desired seal.

12

13 One suggested solution to this problem is taught in
14 British Patent Application Number GB2237181 where there
15 is described a flexible and foldable collar that has a
16 retaining means for enabling a protective gown to be
17 secured thereto. However, while this device might to a
18 limited extent mitigate the problem of cut hair
19 penetrating under the collar region of a client's
20 clothing, it carries a further disadvantage in that it is
21 separate from the protective gown. As such, the
22 described collar requires the use of an additional
23 retaining means, and with that bears associated cost
24 implications.

25

26 Other solutions hereinbefore known are not entirely
27 satisfactory for the reason that they do not successfully
28 counter the tendency of such gowns or capes to pull away
29 from the neck under the influence of their own weight.
30 Moreover, most gowns or capes present only an edge
31 interface to a user's neck rather than a planar contact
32 area and this allows for frequent separation of the gown
33 from the skin at respective points around the top of the
34 gown or cape.

1 It is an object of the present invention to provide
2 apparel offering greater versatility, comfort and sealing
3 qualities to that generally known heretofore.

4
5 Having regard to bibs, it is also recognised that they
6 too should prevent undesirable food matter or even saliva
7 from contaminating or otherwise dirtying a wearer's
8 clothes. Most bibs, however, tend to be loose around a
9 wearer's neck, leaving a gap through which food may
10 penetrate. Also many baby bibs are made of a woven
11 fabric which can be soaked from saliva, spilt drink and
12 so on, causing the underlying clothing to be wetted.
13 Also, ties or laces commonly found on bibs can become
14 caught, work loose or knot.

15
16 According to the present invention there is provided
17 protective apparel comprising a sheet made of a non-woven
18 material having an integrally formed collar portion,
19 wherein the collar portion is resiliently biased, when
20 worn, toward the wearer's neck so as to provide a
21 substantially sealing contact therewith.

22
23 Preferably the non-woven material is rubber.

24
25 Preferably the protective apparel further comprises a
26 fastening means for fastening the sheet material around
27 the wearer. More specifically, the fastening means may
28 be located in the collar region and to the side of the
29 neck, when worn. The fastening means may be a hook and
30 loop fastener, such as Velcro (Trade Mark). The
31 fastening means could be sewn or adhered to the sheet
32 material.

33

1 A paper liner or tissue may be used to line the inside
2 surface of the collar portion.

3

4 Preferably the resilient bias is integral with the
5 construction of the apparel.

6

7 In a preferable embodiment of the invention, the non-
8 woven material would be anti-static, thereby being
9 adapted to repel hair away from itself and the neck and
10 shoulder regions.

11

12 Embodiments of the present invention will now be
13 described, by way of example only, and with reference to
14 the accompanying drawings, in which:

15

16 • Figure 1 is a plan view of protective apparel in
17 accordance with the invention;

18

19 • Figure 2 is a pictorial view of an alternative
20 embodiment of protective apparel according to the
21 invention being worn by a hairdresser's client; and

22

23 • Figure 3 illustrates a further alternative embodiment
24 of protective apparel in the form of a baby's food bib
25 in accordance with the invention.

26

27 Referring firstly to Figure 1, protective apparel is
28 illustrated and generally depicted at 1. The apparel is
29 made from a rubber sheet having a front chest portion 2,
30 a back portion 3, shoulder portions 4a and 4b and a
31 collar portion 5. Notably the collar portion 5 is able
32 to stand substantially upright while the other portions
33 2, 3, 4 lie flat in a resting position.

34

1 Furthermore, the collar portion 5 and fillet or radius 11
2 are formed thicker than the other portions of the sheet
3 material. This has the advantage of creating a desirable
4 weight distribution amongst the apparel 1, while also
5 enabling adequate strength to be imparted to the shaped
6 fillet 11 that serves to resiliently bias the collar
7 portion 5, in use, into sealing contact with the user.

8
9 Fastening means 7a and 7b is provided in the form of hook
10 and loop tabs. One mating part of the fastening means is
11 provided in short segments 7a. This has a two-fold
12 advantage in that it enhances the adjustability of the
13 collar size, and also minimises any reduction of the
14 elasticity of the collar portion 5 by reason of the
15 attached fastening means.

16
17 Additional fastening or securing means may be provided on
18 the underside of the sheet for the optional fastening of
19 a fabric cape or gown (not shown).

20
21 In Figure 2 similar protective apparel 9 is illustrated
22 while in use by a person 10 having a haircut. In this
23 embodiment the apparel 9 is longer such that the non-
24 woven sheet provides the function of a cape or gown while
25 also providing a sealing contact around the wearer's
26 neck.

27
28 The embodiment of Figure 3 is particularly suited for use
29 as a baby's food bib. In this embodiment, generally
30 depicted at 13, the previously described shoulder
31 portions have been substantially reduced. Similarly, the
32 back portion 12 is of shortened length, the need for this
33 area to be protected being mitigated.

34

1 It is to be noted that a baby or young child would almost
2 certainly not succeed in removing the bib 13 undesirably
3 or inadvertently.

4

5 The bib 13 does not require a fastening means as the
6 elasticated collar portion 16 may be easily slipped over
7 the person's head. However, the bib may alternatively be
8 provided with a fastening means 14 at the rear of the
9 neck, when worn, which also renders removal of the bib 13
10 by its wearer difficult.

11

12 A trough 17 is formed in the front portion 18 of the bib
13 13 to further catch spillage. Unlike rigid plastic
14 troughs known to the art, the rubber or latex trough 17
15 does not hurt the baby should he or she fall forward.

16

17 A further advantage of the use of a non-woven material
18 for a bib or the like is that it is generally waterproof
19 and easily wiped clean or washed. The bib 13 made in
20 accordance with the invention herein would also be
21 relatively quick drying. Yet further, its non-porous
22 characteristic make it a suitable protective barrier
23 against spilt hot liquids, such as tea or coffee left
24 within a baby's reach.

25

26 The non-woven material may be a dipped latex. The
27 embodiments may be formed or shaped with a heated knife,
28 manually or mechanically controlled. Moreover, materials
29 used in accordance with the invention may be readily
30 stamped, corrugated or the like, including for aesthetic
31 or branding purposes.

32

- 1 Further modifications and improvements may be
- 2 incorporated without departing from the scope of the
- 3 invention.

1 CLAIMS:

2

3 1. Protective apparel comprising a sheet made of a non-
4 woven material having an integrally formed collar
5 portion, wherein the collar portion is resiliently
6 biased, when worn, toward the wearer's neck so as to
7 provide a substantially sealing contact therewith.

8

9 2. Protective apparel as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
10 the non-woven material is rubber.

11

12 3. Protective apparel as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2,
13 wherein the protective apparel further comprises a
14 fastening means for fastening the sheet material
15 around the wearer.

16

17 4. Protective apparel as claimed in Claim 3, wherein
18 the fastening means is located in the collar region
19 and to the side of the neck, when worn.

20

21 5. Protective apparel as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4,
22 wherein the fastening means is a hook and loop
23 fastener, sewn or adhered to the sheet material.

24

25 6. Protective apparel as claimed in any one of the
26 preceding Claims, further comprising a paper liner
27 or tissue used to line the inside surface of the
28 collar portion.

29

30 7. Protective apparel as claimed in any one of the
31 preceding Claims, wherein the resilient bias is
32 integral with the construction of the apparel.

33

1 8. Protective apparel as claimed in any one of the
2 preceding Claims, wherein the non-woven material is
3 anti-static and thereby adapted to repel hair and or
4 other matter away from itself and the neck and
5 shoulder regions.

6

7 9. Protective apparel as claimed in any one of the
8 preceding Claims, in the form of a hairdresser's
9 apron.

10

11 10. Protective apparel as claimed in any one of the
12 preceding Claims, in the form of a baby or toddler's
13 bib.



Application No: GB 9903193.2
Claims searched: 1-10

Examiner: Rachel Foxon
Date of search: 31 March 1999

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.Q): A3V, A4V

Int Cl (Ed.6): A41D 13/00, A41B 3/00 13/10, A45D 44/08

Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2256577 D.P. Graham (See whole doc.)	1-5,8,9
X	GB 2227922 G.I. Petrini (See whole doc.)	1,2,10
X	GB 603350 B. Sheather (See whole doc.)	1-5,9
X	US 5490289 P. Lehrer (See whole doc.)	1-5,10
X	US 4620323 M. Tepper (See whole doc.)	1-5,10

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.